

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-2 and 5-6 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend claims 3-4 and 7-8 as follows:

LISTING OF CURRENT CLAIMS

Claims 1-2. (Canceled)

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) ~~The optical connector of claim 1, further comprising~~ An optical connector, comprising:

a hollow, cylindrical shroud comprising a cylindrical section, a bore defined within the cylindrical section, the bore having a diameter to allow an optical fiber connector to fit therein and allow the same to plug or unplug a predetermined number of times, the bore being terminated at an opening in the bottom of the cylindrical section;

a cylinder axially extended a predetermined distance from a center of the bottom of the cylindrical section, the cylinder comprising a longitudinal hole with an optical fiber fitted therein wherein a precise circularity in each of the bore and the longitudinal hole and coaxial characteristics of the same are obtained by forming the shroud and the cylinder by electrical casting, and a longitudinal axis of the bore is coaxial with a core of the optical fiber;

an annular flange formed integrally in a bottom of the shroud by electrical casting or injection molding, the flange being adapted to fasten either a laser diode element or a light detection element; and

a plurality of channels in the bottom of the shroud, the channels being equally spaced around the cylinder.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) ~~The optical connector of claim 1, further comprising~~ An optical connector, comprising:

a hollow, cylindrical shroud comprising a cylindrical section, a bore defined within the cylindrical section, the bore having a diameter to allow an optical fiber

connector to fit therein and allow the same to plug or unplug a predetermined number of times, the bore being terminated at an opening in the bottom of the cylindrical section;

a cylinder axially extended a predetermined distance from a center of the bottom of the cylindrical section, the cylinder comprising a longitudinal hole with an optical fiber fitted therein wherein a precise circularity in each of the bore and the longitudinal hole and coaxial characteristics of the same are obtained by forming the shroud and the cylinder by electrical casting, and a longitudinal axis of the bore is coaxial with a core of the optical fiber;

an annular flange formed integrally in a bottom of the shroud by electrical casting or injection molding, the flange being adapted to fasten either a laser diode element or a light detection element; and

a slope formed by shaving the bottom of the cylinder.

Claims 5-6. (Canceled)

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) ~~The optical connector of claim 5, further comprising~~ An optical connector, comprising:

a hollow, cylindrical shroud comprising a cylindrical first section, a cylindrical second section at a bottom of the first section, the second section comprising a bottom and an annular shoulder, and a bore defined within the first section, the bore having a diameter to allow an optical fiber connector to fit therein and allow the same to plug or unplug a predetermined number of times, the bore being terminated at an opening in the bottom of the first section;

a cylinder axially extended a predetermined distance from a center of the bottom of the second section, the cylinder comprising a longitudinal hole with an optical fiber fitted therein wherein a precise circularity in each of the bore and the longitudinal hole and coaxial characteristics of the same are obtained by forming the shroud and the cylinder by injection molding, and a longitudinal axis of the bore is coaxial with a core of the optical fiber;

an annular flange assembly formed integrally in a bottom of the shroud by injection molding or riveting, the flange assembly comprising an interior cavity with

the shoulder coupled to a top of the cavity by injection molding or riveting, thereby securing the flange assembly to a laser diode element or a light detection element; and

a plurality of channels in the bottom of the second section, the channels being equally spaced around the cylinder.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) ~~The optical connector of claim 5, further comprising~~ An optical connector, comprising:

a hollow, cylindrical shroud comprising a cylindrical first section, a cylindrical second section at a bottom of the first section, the second section comprising a bottom and an annular shoulder, and a bore defined within the first section, the bore having a diameter to allow an optical fiber connector to fit therein and allow the same to plug or unplug a predetermined number of times, the bore being terminated at an opening in the bottom of the first section;

a cylinder axially extended a predetermined distance from a center of the bottom of the second section, the cylinder comprising a longitudinal hole with an optical fiber fitted therein wherein a precise circularity in each of the bore and the longitudinal hole and coaxial characteristics of the same are obtained by forming the shroud and the cylinder by injection molding, and a longitudinal axis of the bore is coaxial with a core of the optical fiber;

an annular flange assembly formed integrally in a bottom of the shroud by injection molding or riveting, the flange assembly comprising an interior cavity with the shoulder coupled to a top of the cavity by injection molding or riveting, thereby securing the flange assembly to a laser diode element or a light detection element; and

a slope formed by shaving the bottom of the cylinder.